

**JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD**  
**GOVERNOR**



April 24, 2013

The Honorable Chris Edwards and Ben Unger  
Co-Chairs, Natural Resources Subcommittee  
Joint Ways and Means Committee  
H-170 State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Chris Edwards and Representative Ben Unger:

Thank you for your strong interest in the proposed Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) budget packages, which are contained in both the Department of Agriculture and Department of Environmental Quality's budgets. Expanding the PSP is a high priority for the Governor, for the two agencies responsible for implementing it, and for interested constituent groups. This program also received very strong support from the Program Funding Team during the preparation of the Governor's Recommended Budget.

The Partnership is driven by water quality monitoring data identifying areas of potential health concerns. It brings critical partners together to address problems identified by monitoring in a positive and constructive approach. This voluntary problem solving approach builds on a proven track record as a quick and cost-effective way to address water quality problems. Importantly, it also is working to avoid the need to undertake more complex and expensive regulatory approaches that typically are too slow moving to respond to health concerns in a timely manner.

The budget requests before you for the PSP propose to fund this program equally through pesticide registration fees and General Fund dollars. I understand that some have expressed concerns about the long-term commitment of General Fund dollars for this program. I want to assure you of the Governor's commitment to continue balanced funding of this program with General Fund and fee revenues. While natural resource agencies have struggled to maintain General Fund support for their many important programs, the Governor, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Quality are committed to continuing their support for this important program into the future. The agencies, with the Governor's support, will continue to make this program a high priority for general funds and minimize its exposure to any required reductions in General Fund resources.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important program.

Sincerely,

Richard Whitman  
Governor's Natural Resources Policy Advisor

Cc: Katy Coba, Director, Department of Agriculture  
Dick Pedersen, Director, Department of Environmental Quality  
Lisa Pearson, Department of Administrative Services